

XLVII.—On a small Collection of Birds from the Louisiade and d'Entrecasteaux Islands. By H. B. TRISTRAM, D.D., F.R.S.

IN the autumn of last year, Mr. Basil H. Thomson made a short expedition to the south-east corner of New Guinea and the d'Entrecasteaux and Louisiade Islands, on behalf of the Government of New South Wales, to endeavour to open communications with the natives of these groups, recently attached to the British Empire*. Mr. Thomson, intimately connected with York, through his father the Archbishop, has presented his birds to the York Museum, the authorities of which have kindly forwarded to me the collection for identification. The collection consists of 47 specimens of 33 species, 8 of which appear to me to be undescribed. The only specimens collected on the mainland of New Guinea were those of *Paradisea raggiana*, *Cicinnurus regius*, and *Craspedophora magnifica*, obtained at East Cape and Milne Bay. All the others are from the islands, which have been scarcely visited by any naturalist, so far as I am aware, excepting by John McGillivray, who touched there during the voyage of H.M.S. 'Rattlesnake,' and Mr. A. Goldie.

I proceed to give a list of the birds, with a few notes kindly supplied to me by Mr. Thomson.

1. PARADISEA RAGGIANA, Sclat.

One male specimen, in full plumage, taken at East Cape, New Guinea.

2. PARADISEA DECORA, Salvin & Godman.

Two male specimens, one in superb full plumage, the other immature, having the full plumage developed on the head and neck, but the axillary plumes only just beginning to sprout, about 2 inches long; and the two median rectrices 9 inches long instead of 16, and not wire-like filaments, but continuously barbed on either side, and terminating in a spatule, as in *Tanysiptera*. I may also observe that while the rachis of the median rectrices in the fully adult is jet-black,

* [See Mr. Thomson's narrative of his expedition, Proc. R. Geogr. Soc. 1889, p. 525.—ED.]

that of the junior is light brown, and the barbs yellowish brown with a golden hue. The breast and abdomen of the young are very pale chestnut, the former thickly marked with brown wavy lines.

Mr. Thomson remarks: "So far as we have found, and we searched very carefully, the *Paradisea decora* is confined exclusively to a mountain (Mt. Maybole) on the N.W. corner of Fergusson Island, where we met with it at 2500 ft. above the sea-level. The three specimens in the Sydney Museum were obtained on that mountain by Mr. Goldie, and we spent a fortnight in Fergusson Island searching for it. The note is very like that of *P. raggiana*, and if it is to be met with elsewhere, I feel sure that we should have heard or seen it."

3. *CICINNURUS REGIUS* (L.).

One male in full plumage. Milne Bay, S.E. New Guinea.

4. *CRASPEDOPHORA MAGNIFICA* (V.).

Two male specimens, fully adult. Milne Bay, S.E. New Guinea.

5. *MANUCODIA COMRII*, Sclat.

Three adult specimens from the d'Entrecasteaux Islands.

Of this gorgeous bird Mr. Thomson writes: "It is confined exclusively to the d'Entrecasteaux group, where it is by far the commonest bird. The extraordinary convolutions of the windpipe, which is coiled under the skin in the smaller species (*Manucodia thomsoni*, sp. nov.), are here replaced by a straight tube running from the throat to the vent, and returning before entering the thorax, about 18 inches in length altogether. The note is most peculiar—a low tremolo whistle of so peculiar a 'timbre' that it can be heard more than a mile from the shore." I am not aware that this extraordinary production and convolution of the windpipe in the *Manucodes* has ever previously been noted, excepting in *M. keraudreni*. In *M. atra*, according to Salvadori, it does not occur.

6. *MANUCODIA THOMSONI*, sp. nov.

One specimen from the d'Entrecasteaux Islands.

M. corpore prorsus toto purpureo-nitente; plumis dorsi, pectoris, et abdominis longis et filamentosis; capite, mento

et jugulo chalybæo-viridibus ; capite villosa, duabus cristis decorato ; colli plumis mucronatis ; rostro et pedibus nigris : long. tot. 12·3 poll. Angl., alæ 7, caudæ 6, tarsi 1·6, rostri a rictu 1·45.

This species may at once be distinguished by its oily green resplendent head, in marked contrast with the dark purple of the rest of the body. The wing-coverts are of a lustrous purple, which is not so bright on the body, owing to the dense mass of filamentous feathers with which it is covered above and below. The extraordinary convolutions of the trachea have been noted above. I have much pleasure in calling this new species by the name of its discoverer.

7. *CRATICUS LOUISIADENSIS*, sp. nov.

One specimen from Sudest Island.

Cr. nigerrimus ; abdomine imo et subcaudalibus albis ; supra-caudalibus albo terminatis ; subalaribus albis ; humeralibus apice albis ; remigibus secundariis quinto et sexto albis nigro terminatis, septimo in pogonio externo albo, nigro terminato ; rectricibus tribus externis macula alba in pogonio interno prope apicem præditis ; rostro margaritaceo, pedibus nigris : long. tot. 12·1 poll. Angl., alæ 6·25, caudæ 6, tarsi 1·1, rostr. 1·7.

This very distinct species appears to have no affinity in the distribution of its coloration to any other known member of the genus.

8. *MINO DUMONTI*, Less.

One specimen.

9. *DICÆUM NITIDUM*, sp. nov.

One specimen. Sudest Island.

D. D. rubro-coronato statura et coloribus simillimum, sed dorso scapularibus et remigibus viridi-olivaceis nec purpureo-cæruleis diversum.

This little bird seems to be an exact counterpart of *D. rubro-coronatum*, Sharpe, of the neighbouring coast of New Guinea, but with the marked differences of the upper parts being olive-green instead of purplish blue.

10. *CINNYRIS CHRISTIANÆ*, sp. nov.

Two male specimens. St. Aignan's Island.

C. (Hermotimia) H. corinnæ similis, sed paullo major; pileo plus aurato; gutture chalybeo-cæruleo, minime purpurascente, rostro longissimo; rostro pedibusque nigris.

This Sun-bird, belonging to the *Hermotimia* group, much resembles *H. aspasioides*. But it may at once be discriminated by its beak, which is much longer than in any other member of the family, and by the metallic coloration of the crown, which is intermediate between the metallic dark green of *C. corinnæ* and the golden hue of *C. auriceps*. The throat is of a resplendent metallic blue, without any of the purple hue which characterizes most of the other members of the genus. Though difficult to express in words, the marked distinctions are recognizable at a glance. I have named this bird after one whose neat fingers have often assisted me in ornithological work.

11. MYZOMELA FORBESI, Rams.

One male specimen. Fergusson Island.

Described originally by Mr. E. P. Ramsay from Woodlark Island.

12. MONARCHA ALECTO, Temm.

Male and female. Joannet Island.

13. CHIBIA PROPINQUA, sp. nov.

Two specimens. D'Entrecasteaux Islands.

C. Chibiæ læmostictæ (Scat.) propinqua, sed differt maculis nitentibus colli antici imi et pectoris summi valde angustioribus, et elongatis, neque, sicut in *C. carbonaria*, rotundatis. Statura sicut in *C. læmosticta*.

The distinctions in this species are more easily seen by comparison than recognized by description.

14. COLLOCALIA FUCIPHAGA (Thunb.).

Two specimens. St. Aignans.

15. PODARGUS PAPUENSIS, Quoy & G.

Two specimens.

16. EURYSTOMUS PACIFICUS (Lath.).

One specimen.

17. *RHYTIDOCERUS PLICATUS* (Penn.).

One specimen.

18. *SAUROPATIS SAUROPHAGA* (Gould).

One specimen. East Island.

19. *SYMA TOROTORO*, Less.

Male and female. Fergusson Island.

20. *TANYSIPTERA ROSSELIANA*, sp. nov.

Two specimens. Rossel Island.

T. supra ultramarino-cærulea; capite toto et tectricibus alarum superioribus læte cæruleis; remigibus nigris, in pogonio externo cæruleo marginatis; tergo inferiore, cauda et toto corpore subtus purissime albis; cauda spatulata; spatula alba, sed parte rachidis angustiore duarum mediarum rectricum ultra caudam cærulea; rostro rubro; pedibus nigris: long. tot. 15 poll. Angl., alæ 4·35, caudæ 5·5, caud. cum rectr. med. 10·6, rostri 1·6.

This is one of the most beautiful members of this beautiful group. The long white graduated tail is very conspicuous, while the shafts of the two median feathers have a very minute blue edging, which terminates with the commencement of the white racket. In this disposition of the colours it seems to differ from all other described species.

21. *DACELO GAUDICHAUDI*, Quoy & G.

Male and female.

22. *NASITERNA PUSIO*, Sclat.

Two specimens. St. Aignan's Island.

23. *NINOX ROSSELIANA*, sp. nov.

One specimen. Rossel Island.

N. superne fusco-brunnea, unicolor; tectricibus alarum in externo pogonio albo maculatis; remigibus fuscis sine maculis; cauda obscure brunneo fasciata; pectore et abdomine albidis, striis castaneis longitudinaliter variegatis; tibiis et tarsis castaneis; rostro albedo; pedibus pallidis: long. tot. 11 poll. Angl., alæ 8·1, caudæ 5, rostr. 9, tarsi 1·3.

This very plainly-clad little Owl seems nearest to the Australian *N. boobook*, though very much smaller. In mea-

surements, but not in coloration, it approaches closely to the description of *N. jacquinoti* from the Solomon Islands.

24. *HALIAETUS LEUCOGASTER* (Gm.).

One specimen.

25. *TADORNA RADJAH*, Garn.

One specimen. Fergusson Island.

26. *PTILOPUS STROPHIUM*, Gould.

Two males. East Island and Rossel Island.

27. *CARPOPHAGA SPILORRHOA*, Gray.

One specimen. St. Aignan's Island.

28. *CHALCOPHAPS CHRYSOCHLORA*, Gould.

One specimen. East Island.

29. *CALENAS NICOBARICA* (L.).

One specimen. Normanby Island.

30. *MACROPYGIA CARTERETIA*, Bp. Consp. ii. p. 57.

One specimen. St. Aignan's Island.

31. *MACROPYGIA CINEREICEPS*, sp. nov.

One specimen. Fergusson Island.

M. corpore superne cinnamomeo; capite cinereo; nucha viridi resplendente; mento albicante; pectore rufo-cinnamomeo; abdomine albidiore; subcaudalibus læte castaneis; remigibus brunnecis castaneo marginatis; cauda castanea; rectricibus tribus externis fascia lata nigricante in medio cinctis.

The ash-coloured head sufficiently marks this species, the type of which is evidently fully adult. There is a single example of the same bird in the British Museum unnamed: it was obtained by Mr. H. O. Forbes on the S.E. coast of New Guinea, so that the species probably has a range of some extent.

32. *CHARADRIUS FULVUS*, Gm.

One specimen. Rossel Island.

33. *HIMANTOPUS LEUCOCEPHALUS*, Gould.

One specimen. Fergusson Island.